

Sanctuary Advisory Council Facts 2003/2004

- Sanctuary Advisory Councils are community-based advisory groups established to provide advice to the manager of a national marine sanctuary.
- There are eleven Advisory Councils that meet all year round. The oldest Advisory Council has been around since 1990, the youngest since 2001.
- Members of Advisory Councils donated over 94,000 hours to the National Marine Sanctuary Program in 2003. That's worth more than \$1.6 million dollars and equal to about eighteen full time staff members.
- The National Marine Sanctuary Program spent about \$1 million dollars in 2003 supporting the Advisory Councils and their working groups and subcommittees, including staff time.
- In 2003, over 220 individuals from all walks of life served their communities and sanctuary as members of Advisory Councils, including fishermen, divers, teachers, boaters, business people, activists, protected area managers, artists, scientists, and elected officials.
- Advisory Councils provide advice about everything in sanctuary operations and projects, including education and outreach, research and science, regulations and enforcement, and management planning. They are particularly important in helping a sanctuary during its designation or management plan review process.
- Advisory Councils create working groups and subcommittees to help them get their work done. In 2003, there were several dozen of these kinds of groups.
- Once a year, the chairs of our Advisory Councils meet to discuss national program issues and projects. In 2004, they discussed the reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and activities of cruise ships in sanctuaries.
- Sanctuary Advisory Councils are interesting to people from other parts of the world; in 2004, people from Canada and Australia came to see how our Advisory Councils operate.
- In 2003, the National Marine Sanctuary Program's Volunteer of the Year was the Chair of one of our Advisory Councils, Mr. Alan Brooks. In 2004, Ken Nedimyer, a member of the Florida Keys Sanctuary Advisory Council, has been named as a NOAA Environmental Hero and Stephanie Harlan, Chair of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council, has been chosen as the Volunteer of the Year.



For more information, please contact Karen Brubeck at Karen.Brubeck@noaa.gov